

**MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON  
MIDDLE EASTERN AMERICAN AFFAIRS**

**Meeting Minutes**

Date: Thursday, October 30, 2008

Time: 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Place: Montgomery County Executive Office Building  
101 Monroe Street, Cafeteria  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Present: Chair Anwer Hasan, Rudwan Abu-rumman, Bilal Ayyub, , Riad  
Dakheel, Miriam Galston, Nadia Sawaya, Julian H. Spirer, Khalil  
Zaied

Absent: Durriya Badani, Zahid H. Bukhari, Dorreya (Didi) Elmenshawy,  
Irma Hafeez, Sayed Hassan, Majid R. Mirza, Murat Ozer, Rafi  
Rone, Ibrahim Uyar, Yonathan (Yoni) Zohar

Staff Present: Iman Awad, David Lee, Agnes M. Smith

Guest Speakers:

**I. Call to Order and Greetings**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Anwer Hasan.

**II. Approval of August Meeting Minutes**

There was a motion to accept the August 28, 2008 minutes. Minutes passed after making a change on page 7, paragraph 2; He represents a group of **Muslims** who is interested in setting up a community health center.

**III. GOCI Announcement**

Special Assistant Iman Awad spoke on behalf of Angela Lagdameo, Special Assistant Chief of Staff. Special Assistant Awad spoke about Ms. Lagdameo working with the Task Force on the Preservation of Heritage language Skills in Maryland which on November 24, 2008 will be having a public forum. The languages that are being looked at include Arabic, Yiddish, Urdu, Hindi, and Persian. There will be a mass e-mail sent out to all Commissioners with further details. The Commission is asked to participate in this public forum.

#### **IV. Announcement Annual Joint Commission Meeting**

There will be an Annual Joint Commission Meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 in Annapolis. The purpose of the meeting is to understand each other. Finding Commission ground, how we can help each other. Once more details are received, Special Assistant Awad will forward. It would be a good time to have more concrete actions.

#### **V. Staff Update**

Special Assistant Awad spoke about the numerous Iftar Dinners. She also attended the COVE Anti-Hate Summit with Ms. Agnes M. Smith where they discussed different issues within the communities. They had the Anti Defamation League in attendance as well as a gentleman from CARE the Council on Arab and Islamic Nations. She also met with Notre Dome who will be doing a study abroad in the Middle East. Letters were sent out to all the Middle Eastern Embassies and she had a chance to visit the Embassy of Israel, Lebanon and Sudan. The Israeli Embassy was interested in the business fund since Governor O'Malley has already done a trade mission. They are hoping that the Commission will send more recommendations for more trips. The Lebanese Embassy gave her a list of 310 Lebanese Americans that live in Maryland. The Embassy of Sudan spoke about the cultural issues that they would like to be more involved with. In January they will be having a week of Arab heritage with the Embassies. Chair Hasan sent out a letter concerning the Minority Business Enterprise to Secretary Pecari of MDOT and Secretary Jenkins of Minority Affairs to have the Middle Eastern community included in the disparities study. She also set-up a meeting in November with the recruitment office within the Department of Budget and Management to figure out what number of Middle Easterners are already employed in Maryland.

Chair Hasan asked Special Assistant Awad to follow up with phone calls to the embassies that has not responded to the letter. Also, send out an e-mail to Commissioners in reference to any trips she goes on to see if any of them is interested in attending with her.

#### **VI. Community Development**

#### **VII. Workforce Development**

#### **VIII. Business Development**

#### **IX. Public Participation**

#### **X. Announcements**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.